

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action of April 26, 2004, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that the disclosure is objected to for containing various informalities.

Figs. 2, 3 and 11 should be designated with the legend --Prior Art--. Claims 32-34, 36 and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over the patent to Stamm.

Claims 32-36 and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin. Claims 32-36 and 38-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over the patent to Vahey or British reference 2308565 to Conroy.

Claims 32-34, 36 and 38-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over the patent to Lin.

Claims 32-34, 36, 38-39 and 42-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over German reference 27274482 to Loewe.

Claims 32-34, 36-39 and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over the patent to D'Alessio.

Claims 39, 40 and 48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Stamm in view of the patent to Mollon.

Claims 39 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over the IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin.

Finally, it is noted that claims 44-47 will be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In connection with the Examiner's objection to the disclosure, applicants have amended the specification to include headings at appropriate locations. With this change, it is respectfully submitted that the objection to the disclosure is overcome and should be withdrawn.

In connection with the drawings, applicants have enclosed herewith substitute sheets containing Figs. 2, 3 and 11. In these substitute sheets, these figures have been labeled with the legend --Prior Art--. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by these changes.

In view of the Examiner's rejections of the claims, applicants have canceled claims 37-42 and 44, amended claims 32, 43 and 45-47, and added new claims 49-54.

Independent claim 32 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 44, together with intervening claims 42 and 43. New independent claims 49

and 50 contain the subject matter of allowable dependent claims 46 and 47, respectively. New dependent claims 51-54 depend from either new claim 49 or 50 and thus are also in allowable condition.

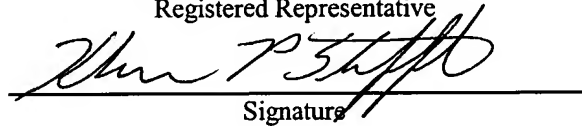
In view of these changes to the claims, it is respectfully submitted that the various rejections of claims 32-43 and 48 under either 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are overcome and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on September 27, 2004:

Klaus P. Stoffel

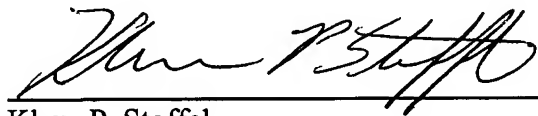
Name of applicant, assignee or
Registered Representative


Signature

September 27, 2004

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



Klaus P. Stoffel

Registration No.: 31,668

OSTROLENK, FABER, GERB & SOFFEN, LLP

1180 Avenue of the Americas

New York, New York 10036-8403

Telephone: (212) 382-0700

KPS:ck

AMENDMENT TO THE DRAWINGS

Figs. 2, 3 and 11 have been amended. The attached sheets of formal drawings replace the original sheets including Figs. 2, 3 and 11.